

14.
R E M A R K S

O N

Mr. B R A N D ' s

CHIRURGICAL ESSAYS, &c. &c.

Price One Shilling,

REMARKS

ON

THE

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REMARKS

ON

Mr. BRAND'S
CHIRURGICAL ESSAYS

ON THE

Causes and Symptoms of RUPTURES, their natural
Consequences, if neglected, and the various Dangers
in applying TRUSSES;

WITH A

SHORT BUT TRUE HISTORY

OF THE INVENTION OF

Mr. Brand's Patent Elastic Trusses:

INTENDED TO SHEW

How well HE is qualified to be the Head of his Profession,
and censure all others as ignorant and presumptuous.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

An ATTEMPT to establish a Criterion to distinguish the
EMPIRIC from the FAIR PRACTITIONER in RUP-
TURE CASES,

AND

QUERIES to Mr. BRAND on Particulars that are said to
constitute PART, if not the WHOLE, of his improved
Method of TREATMENT and CURE.

By T. S H E L D R A K E, JUNIOR,
TRUSS-MAKER, No. 84, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

Non hic Centauros, non Gorgona.

L O N D O N:

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The Reader is desired to correct the
following Errata.

E R R A T A.

Preface, page 3. for *men whose extensive knowledge*, read,
men who have extensive knowledge.

Page 11. line 8. for *palliative case*, read, *palliative cure*.

Page 14. line 8. and 12. for *homial sac*, read, *hernial sac*.

Page 28. line 19. for *buboncele*, read, *bubonocoele*.



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P R E F A C E.

EVERY man that offers his observations to the public, in hopes of making himself useful to society, is entitled to praise for his intention, whether his remarks prove useful or not; but the man who makes this pretence a mask to promote his own sinister designs, should be rewarded with contempt, if he has superior abilities—pity and oblivion, if he has none.

I set out in life with a resolution never to interfere with any of my own profession,

as I am convinced the world is wide enough for us all, were we twice as numerous as we are ; and disputes between men of the same profession are disagreeable, because they are generally attributed to motives which did not give rise to them. Mr. Brand's pamphlet, however, induced me to alter that determination, as it contains so many hints to the discredit of the profession in general, that I should have been highly culpable, had I let them pass unnoticed.

When a reflection is cast upon any set of people, it is their duty, and the duty of every individual, as a part of the whole, to enquire into the justice of it ; if they let it pass unnoticed, they tacitly acknowledge its veracity.

No man can be JUSTIFIED in treating all his profession with contempt: if any can be *excused* for doing so, it must be
those

those who have given the strongest proofs of their merit. Men whose extensive knowledge, joined to an impatience of seeing what they know to be trifling, or false, may be entitled to shew their superiority ; but the man who asserts himself to be the head of his profession, without convincing us that he is so, must expect, in this reasoning age, to have his vouchers examined before his pretensions can be allowed.

For this purpose, one of those men, who is by his profession included in Mr. Brand's general censure of ignorance and presumption, will examine his pamphlet : if it contains truths that were not generally known before, his superiority will be acknowledged ; if it does not, he must expect to be deposed from the situation he assumes, and to be placed in that he deserves

It is

It is necessary to observe, that egotism and presumption are the characteristics of quackery, and quacks are those who (in Mr. Brand's opinion) "promise more than in the nature of things is possible, therefore are to be suspected of doing less than can or ought to be done."

REMARKS, &c.

THE treatment of Ruptures is an employment that has been more subject to the depredations of quacks than any branch of the healing art; but the great improvements that have been made in that art, and particularly in the knowledge of this disorder, have now made it universally known, that the only method of treating it is to return the parts into the abdomen, and apply a proper elastic truss, to prevent their future protrusion.

This being the case, Mr. Brand must owe his excellence, if he has any, to his superior method of making and applying his ELASTIC BANDAGES, which he formerly called his *Patent Elastic Trusses*, but at present he seems to have forgot that appellation,

lation, except in one place, which I shall take notice of hereafter. As I wish to do him strict justice, and give him an opportunity of producing every circumstance in his favour, and shew the justice of his pretensions to this most "EFFICIENT" part of his business, as he calls it, I will begin these observations by relating a little anecdote, which will set them in their proper light.

Mr. Brand's father was a private sentinel in his late Majesty's service, from whence he was discharged on account of a rupture, that rendered him unfit for duty. As he was really a gentleman-soldier, i. e. bred to no trade, he engaged in the service of a cutler, at Wapping, in quality of turn-wheel: here, during the intervals of his employment, he learnt the use of their working tools, and by dint of labour and patience made himself a truss, probably in imitation of that he wore for his disorder. It was natural for him to think he was as well qualified to make trusses for others as himself; for this reason he left the wheel, and commenced truss-maker; and so far I think had great merit; for any man, who can raise himself in the world by *honourable* means, deserves public encouragement. He was patronized by several gentlemen of the faculty, who, seeing him industrious, recommended him to considerable business: a great change, however, soon appeared

appeared in his behaviour, for, like the Devil in Milton; who, “ thus high uplifted beyond hope, aspires beyond thus high,” he no sooner found himself able to live better than the ordinary sons of Mars, than ambition fired his mind, and he resolved to engross the whole business to himself; for this laudable purpose, he pretended to be the first inventor of Elastic Trusses, purchased a patent to secure the sale of them to himself, and prosecuted several truss-makers for pirating his invention.

On the trial of one of these causes, (Brand against Reid) it was unluckily proved, that a Mr. Blakey, the first man who made them in England, and acknowledged that he brought the invention from Paris, had sold elastic trusses near thirty years before the date of Mr. Brand’s patent, that resembled his in every respect but one—they were much better: it was proved too, that several truss-makers of established reputation had made them in the same manner ever since Mr. Blakey introduced them. Mr. Brand was cast, and of course the patent declared to be an imposition.

It is said, “ the sins of the father shall be visited upon the children,” but I declare I did not relate this affair to fulfil that doctrine: all that’s meant by it is, to shew that as it was proved in a court

of justice, that Mr. Brand's attempt to obtain the whole reputation and profit of this useful business, was an imposition; if the son has any superior merit, it must be all his own acquisition, which will redound more to his honour, if true; but if his pretensions are like his father's, groundless, his fault will be much extenuated, if we consider that a weakness of this kind appears to be a family defect.

That the reader may be enabled to pass his judgment on this subject, so important to Mr. Brand's reputation, I will now examine his pamphlet, and leave the public to form a just opinion of its and his merit.

By the title-page, (*which is Chirurgical Essays on the causes and symptoms of Ruptures, their natural consequences, if neglected; and the various dangers in applying Trusses; by T. Brand, Surgeon Extraordinary, in cases of Ruptures, to his Majesty's Royal Hospital at Greenwich*) the uninformed reader may imagine, that the causes, symptoms, &c. were hitherto unknown; that Mr. Brand first discovered them to the public, and that his title of Surgeon Extraordinary, &c. implies that he is a surgeon of extraordinary merit: this, I humbly conceive, is not the case. The man whose profession is a mixture of the mechanical and liberal, is more
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than the one, and less than the other; as Mr. Brand is, by his own account, of this mixt class, it follows, that Rupture Surgeon Extraordinary means additional surgeon for the performance of inferior business; therefore if Mr. Brand's title is proper, the surgeon's mate in a man of war should be stiled surgeon extraordinary on board his Majesty's ship, &c.

Having set his title in its proper light, let us now come to his essays, and shew that the substance of them was well known before the publication of his pamphlet. The preface may be compared to an advertisement, or proclamation, saying, Come hither, O ye people! attend to the instructions of my pen, for I will tell you things strange and wonderful, that can be learnt from no man but myself! As our expectations are raised by this important beginning, we are induced to turn over the book, every leaf promising the wonderful information, and telling us of the author's great abilities; but, behold! after reading 108 pages, the melancholy account closes, leaving readers of every denomination disappointed; for to the learned he hath told nothing, and the ignorant sent uninformed away.

One particular, however, he has not forgot to mention, viz, that himself only understands his
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profession ; but he does not seem desirous to *convince* us of this ; no, we are to believe it by finding he has published a pamphlet, and imagine that to be a prodigy of learning, as Boniface admired Foigard's Latin ; he did not understand it, but, as he talked it so fast, of course it must be good.

But I do not expect to have *my assertions* credited without proofs. Every syllable of true information that is in Mr. Brand's pamphlet, may be found in Mr. Pott's treatise on Ruptures ; that gentleman's work being so universally read by those patients who wish to understand the disorder, as well as the faculty, Mr. Brand surely can claim no merit by the information. It is not my intention to croud these remarks with unnecessary quotations ; I must therefore desire those who entertain a doubt of this, to compare the two works, where they will find the same account of the causes, &c. of ruptures, with only the difference that might be expected from the inequality of the writers abilities.

If Mr. Brand had no new information to give the public, why did he take up his pen ? In answer to this he may perhaps say, he did not write to those who understood the disorder, but to the uninformed patients—to tell them of his superior skill. I sincerely believe he did not wish that any
one

one who is conversant with the subject, should see his pamphlet; if he could have escaped their notice, his ends might have been answered: but examine the foundation of his pretensions, and what does he produce to support them?—a pamphlet of 108 pages, which he says the common principles of humanity urged him to publish, to detect the presumption of quacks and the ignorance of truss-makers, and of course shew his own superior knowledge: of what does that knowledge consist? Deprive his essays of the obscurity he seems to have studiously involved them in, (on purpose, I suppose, for the uninformed reader) and they appear to be a composition of truth that is or might have been extracted from another author, ASSERTIONS in favour of himself and to the prejudice of others, truisms, and some falsehoods, and even the technical terms either ignorantly used or studiously misapplied. That this account is not exaggerated, will be evident to every one who attends to the following extracts, which I once thought to have arranged in some order, but I afterwards found it was impossible, as nonsense, truism, falsehood, and absurdity, are so curiously blended in every part of the pamphlet, that when I attempted to set either by themselves, the rest were sure to follow, and reduce the whole to their original confusion; therefore I have been obliged to follow him, collecting such passages as are wor-

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thy observation, which I shall set down in order as they occurred to me, with remarks that I hope will enable the reader to form a just opinion of the whole pamphlet.

Preface. " I have seen so many melancholy
 " cases arising from the negligence of patients,
 " the presumption of quacks, and the ignorance
 " of truss-makers, that I felt myself urged by the
 " common principles of humanity to publish the
 " following pages."

Page 5. " I have every reason to believe that
 " most of the incurable ruptures now under my
 " care, were rendered so by the presumption of
 " quacks, nurses, and truss-makers, and the in-
 " judicious manner in which they were treated
 " when young and curable."

Page 13. " It cannot be matter of surprise to
 " any man of the smallest knowledge and re-
 " flection, that so many ruptures are rendered
 " incurable, and even beyond any relief from
 " surgery, that we find patients so often not only
 " exposed to the immediate hazard of their lives,
 " but actually destroyed, through the ignorance
 " of truss-makers, and the presuming temerity
 " of quacks."

Who that reads the above observations, would not imagine the author of them to be possesst of some hitherto undiscovered method of treating ruptures, and that all truss-makers, quacks, and nurses, were equally old women and impostors? But will any one give him credit for the **ASSERTION**, when they know he is one of the number?

The first thirty-three pages contain an account of the causes, symptoms, &c. as before described, besides the usual hints in favour of himself, and the following remarkable discoveries, viz. if a rupture is not kept up, it will fall down; if the intestine is confined, it cannot be at liberty to perform its functions; if the stricture continues, the intestine will inflame, proceed to mortification, and bring on death, if not prevented by proper remedies. By the importance of this detail, I imagine it was not known before, that if the operations of Nature are interrupted, she must be put out of her way; and when a man is ill of a dangerous disease, if he does not use the proper remedies, he will probably die. The uninformed are much obliged to Mr. Brand for making these discoveries public.

The case, p. 20, contains a circumstance which illustrates Mr. Brand's skill and penetration so fully, that I should do him the greatest injustice if

I omitted it. He says, " The spermatic chords
 " were still considerably enlarged ; but I was sur-
 " prised at not being able to discover the testes in
 " their proper places. In my first surprise I
 " asked him, if they had ever been down in the
 " scrotum ?" Can a man give a greater proof of
 his knowledge, than by asking such a question,
holding the spermatic chord in his hand ? It was
 in fact telling the patient he was a very curious
 subject, as he, Mr. Brand, thought Nature had
 placed his testes on that part of the spermatic
 chord that was within the abdomen, instead of
 that which is without; and to relate this story
 himself too ! O Wit ! Wit ! how hast thou fa-
 voured Mr. Brand, when he wished to inform the
 world that he was a most extraordinary surgeon !

Page 25, he says, " It is scarce necessary to
 " observe, that if the rupture be of the omentum,
 " the stricture will be less dangerous than when the
 " intestine is concerned."

This is not true : they are equally dangerous,
 because the effect produced on either by stricture
 is the same ; the only difference must be in the
 time requisite to produce that effect : as the in-
 testine contains a greater quantity of blood-vessels,
 a stricture upon it will impede the circulation more
 than a stricture upon the omentum, and of course
 mortify

mortify sooner than the omentum would under the same circumstances; therefore if the stricture cannot be removed, the effect will be the same; for this reason they are equally dangerous. Mr. Pott mentions several omental ruptures that have been fatal.

Mr. Brand has spun out seven pages on the palliative case, the substance of which is, the patient must always wear a truss to prevent the return of the rupture: if it does not suit the case, it will not answer that purpose; and if it does not, it must be hurtful. We are certainly much obliged to him for discovering, that if the remedy is not proper for the disorder it is given to cure, it cannot be expected to have a good effect; but I believe it was known before Mr. Brand's essays were published, that if a rupture came down under the truss, the pressure of the pad may produce the same effect as a stricture, or at least form adhesions.

Page 34. After lamenting the general want of knowledge in curing ruptures, he says, " I do not remember one patient, who was retained with a view to have the radical cure performed at the hospital, while I was a pupil."

I will explain this to him. Our hospital surgeons are men of the first professional abilities; they know that when a rupture is returned into the abdomen, and a proper truss applied, art can do no more for the patient: the radical cure is sometimes effected, sometimes not; it depends upon the patient's care, and circumstances in his constitution, which they cannot accelerate, or even tell if they will take place or not; for this reason, when they have done this for their hospital patients, they discharge them. The man that openly or covertly says he can do more for the radical cure of a rupture than this, "promises more than in the nature of things is possible, and therefore is to be suspected of doing less than can or ought to be done."

If Mr. Brand had considered that many men are but thirty-one inches in circumference, he would have reduced the size of the rupture he mentions, p. 36, ten or fifteen inches, to bring it within the verge of probability.

Of his own trusses, he says, p. 39, "At the end of this pamphlet, the reader will find the opinions of some eminent gentlemen relative to the *Patent Elastic Trusses*." I thought Mr. Brand had lost the patent, as he mentions it but this once; I refer the reader to the beginning of these remarks

marks for an account of it, and will examine the gentlemen's opinions when we come to them. To conclude this sentence, he says, "upon which I shall only say I have bestowed a great deal of time and study." It appears to have been much time and study very ill bestowed.

On the radical cure Mr. Brand has acquitted himself very well, considering the difficulty of the subject; for instead of boldly asserting impossibilities, he has only talked nonsense, by *INSINUATING* that he can perform them. By what I can understand from this part of his subject, which is not the *least* obscure in the pamphlet, he means to say, 'tis *possible* that patients of every age may be cured, 'tis *probable* he can cure them, ergo, 'tis worth every one's while to try his improved method of cure, and I suppose pay him well for his trouble; at the same time, by the *caution* he says is necessary to be used by those who take his advice, it is impossible for them to know whether they are cured or not.

Mr. Brand professes to understand the disorder: if he does, he should likewise know, that every man of *character* or chirurgical abilities is of opinion, (and 'tis probable they too know something of it) that 'tis impossible to cure a rupture by any other means than I have described. As Mr. Brand's
opinion

opinion is different from the whole of the faculty, and it does not *appear* that he knows more of the subject than they do, it is reasonable to conclude that he does not understand his subject; for this reason, I will tell him what the operation is that *naturally* takes in the radical cure of a rupture. The intestine and omentum are returned into the abdomen, the homial sac does not return; if the rupture does not protrude again, the sides of the sac lie in contact, adhesions are formed, which at length unite them into one substance. If the homial sac does return, as is said by some writers, the laceration between the integument and the obliquus externus muscle, which must have taken place at the first appearance of the rupture, is healed the same way. Mr. Brand says, page 66, "Those patients that *have* been *radically* cured, should always wear trusses afterwards as a *pre-*
vention." There is no symptom by which we can know if a rupture is radically cured, unless the bandage is laid aside, and it does not return. If Mr. Brand's *prudent* advice is followed, the patient cannot know if he is cured or not; therefore if he will undertake to cure a rupture, he should inform us by what means he knows if the cure is affected, as it is unknown to every one but himself, and is believed to be impossible.

When

When a man takes money of a patient to cure him of a disorder that himself allows, “ is frequently to be missed,” and is so circumstanced that if his advice is taken, no one can know if the cure is effected, he gives the world reason to call him at least “ *ignorant and presuming* :” but when the same man *pretends* to great knowledge in his profession, which is famous for giving rise to empirics, he gives the sensible part of the world reason to think he himself is a quack ; and those are the people who, in Mr. Brand’s opinion, “ *tend to do more than in the nature of things is possible, and therefore are to be suspected of doing less than can or ought to be done.*”

He has taken much pains to explain the importance of good trusses, and added several cases to prove the superiority of his own, As it is well known that the constant use of trusses is the only method to palliate or cure a rupture, it required but few words to convince us, that if they were not properly made they could not have the desired effect ; but Mr. Brand likes to make the most of a little information, which he spreads in some parts of his pamphlet, like leaf-gold upon a gingerbread watch ; if the possessor rubs it, to try its real value, on the slightest touch the glitter disappears, and leaves not a wreck behind.

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The use of chirurgical or medical cases is to shew the success of new methods of treating disorders that were before but imperfectly known, or improved methods of treating well-known diseases. Mr. Brand disdains to publish any cases of this kind: what he means to tell us is of more importance—to himself, viz. that his *Elastic Trusses* are the only ones that can be of use to ruptured patients, and produces ten cases to prove it. If the worst, the most ignorant truss-maker in London had, in the course of his life, an hundred cases, it is probable that a fifth part of them would be favourable, and it requires no great invention to compose cases like Mr. Brand's; therefore, if his are to have the force of proofs, it follows that any man who could produce or invent twenty such cases, might establish himself as a man of great skill without further enquiry.

Page 75, he mentions a man who “pretended to make trusses on Mr. Brand's principles.” A man might make such a promise; but *if he did*, he paid Mr. Brand a compliment he little deserved; as it appears, from the account of the patent, if Mr. Brand's trusses are made on any principle at all, that principle was well known, and universally practised, before even *his father* made them.

Page 79, he mentions a patient "that carried his trufs to a man who spoiled it by new lining it, for when done it did not keep up his rupture as usual." I can safely say this assertion is false, or the trufs was never a good one. The utility of the trufs depends upon the goodness of the spring, which should be made of well-tempered steel; if it is properly made, nothing but fire can change its form; therefore taking off the old covering, and substituting a new one, could not alter it, if properly made: but I will allow this might have been altered, as I know Mr. Brand's trusses are not made of *all* tempered steel; some parts of them are of thin iron, which bends very easily; therefore this might have been unintentionally altered, as he says.

Page 80, he says, his patient "blamed his ill-timed parsimony, for it seems he had taken the trufs to be lined *only to save the expence of a new one.*" Does not this insinuate the necessity of having a *new trufs every time the covering wears out*? If Mr. Brand can make his patients of that opinion, he certainly has more *address* than the rest of his profession. I am sure that a trufs *properly made* may be worn several years, have the covering renewed as often as it wears out, and, if no accident happens to break it, at the end of that time be as serviceable as it was at first.

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He concludes, by saying, that so long as a rupture can possibly come down, the patient cannot be cured; and gravely tells us, “ this fact cannot “ be denied in the language of quackery.” The world is much obliged to Mr. Brand’s penetration for discovering that while a man is sick he cannot be said to be well, and I firmly believe no quack will contradict that assertion.

He then takes his leave, saying, “ the unin-
 “ formed may be much obliged to him for his
 “ labour.” I hope the uninformed *patient* will be more obliged to me for explaining his pamphlet, than to him for writing it. If he means the uninformed PROFESSOR, I can only say, that I am an uninformed *Truss-maker*, who wish to serve those unfortunate people that employ me; but notwithstanding Mr. Brand’s *extensive practice*, and his publishing this work as the result of it, I have found nothing in it that I had not learnt by studying the former writers on this subject, and my own observations; therefore I cannot thank him for his information: but as he has promised to lay something *more worthy attention* before the public on a *future day*, I assure him whenever that day comes, I shall be as ready as at present to pay him all the attention and deference he deserves.

Here

Here follows the opinions of two medical gentlemen, to shew the "*efficiency*" of Mr. Brand's Elastic Trusses :

The first says, " I have seen some instances where Mr. Brand's Elastic Trusses have been successful, when others have failed.

" (Signed) EDWARD BARRY."

Will Mr. Brand say whether this certificate was given to him or his father ? Sir Edward has been dead several years : he died even before Mr. Brand's patent was proved to be an imposition. If Sir Edward meant to say, he thought Mr. Brand's trusses were a new invention, and better than all others, and gave it to the father, it is evident that he was imposed upon : if he gave it to the son for the same purpose, it proves that *he* really had a new and improved method of making trusses, while his father was imposing upon the public by false pretences. If he *had* this invention, why did not he produce it, to shew that he did not deserve the censure that justly fell upon his father ? Why was it not produced during his father's life, who died some years after Sir Edward Barry's decease ? Or why has not Mr. Brand's pretended superiority been demonstrated to the present moment, by something more than his own ipse dixit ? Could the truth of this affair be discovered, I fancy

it would appear that this certificate was one of those procured by Old Brand, to support his pretensions, when he first started *his* project; and that when the son determined to publish (as he has shewn no proofs of his superiority) he thought it was as *convenient* to make use of this (which, as it was given to a Mr. Brand, would pass current with the public) as to apply to the medical gentlemen of the day, who are too well acquainted with the *Patent Elastic Trusses* to support them with their names.

This conjecture will have the force of truth, unless Mr. Brand can prove that *he* has obtained a patent since his *father's* was declared to be of no use; if this is the case, how could Sir Edward Barry give his opinion of the "*efficiency*" of the invention some years after he was in his grave? But even suppose Mr. Brand can surmount all these difficulties, and prove the certificate was given to *himself* only, what does Sir Edward say in his favour?—that he has seen Mr. Brand's trusses sometimes succeed, when others have failed.

How indifferent must the cause be that is obliged to fly for support to an opinion given so long ago, and in such an undecided manner, when there are so many eminent gentlemen living, who would doubtless give their testimony in its favour at present, if it had any merit.

There

There is the opinion of another gentleman, who says, " he has often seen Mr. Brand's Elastic Trusses, which he thinks are constructed on a more efficient principle, and consequently are more important to the safety of the patient than any he has seen." There is no reason to doubt this gentleman's authority, which he certainly don't intend to go beyond his own practice, as he does not say no man can make them so well as Mr. Brand, nor does he say he has seen the works of every man of the same profession; and I am convinced that gentleman would not have suffered his name to come before the public, had he thought it would have been brought to support the *pretensions* of a man who has given no *proofs* of his superior merit.

This is the substance of a work introduced to the public to shew the author's great professional abilities; but after examining every part of it with the greatest attention, I am only convinced of one circumstance, viz. that Mr. Brand has more self-conceit than any of those he censures; and I think it will be necessary, when " the common principles of humanity urge him to publish something more worthy attention," that he should *prove* what he has *asserted* to be true, that truss-makers, i. e. all truss-makers, are " ignorant and presumptuous;" that he has more learning
and

and modesty than any of them, (for diffidence is generally a proof of learning) and that he is better qualified to perform the radical cure of ruptures than those surgeons who do not take patients with that view.

There are, I believe, in all professions, men who do not understand what they practise. The truss-makers may be divided into two classes: the first are ignorant mechanics, who sell trusses, and scarcely know their use, or the consequences of misapplying them; we shall easily allow Mr. Brand to be superior to these.

Mr. Brand's insinuations are levelled at the whole profession; but if any can think ignorance and presumption are their general characteristics, they will, upon enquiry, find themselves mistaken. I believe there is no man of reputation in this business, who is not well acquainted with the disorder, and has not studied anatomy so far as it relates to the profession, which they are at least as well qualified for as Mr. Brand, although they may not assume greater consequence than they are entitled to, by calling themselves Surgeons Extraordinary, &c.

Therefore, if Mr. Brand will continue his insinuations to the prejudice of all the profession,

sion, and assume the superiority to himself, he must produce greater proofs of his merit than his pamphlet contains, before that superiority can be allowed him by the public.

Where did Mr. Brand get his knowledge?—if in the anatomical schools of this metropolis, as they are open to every body, others may have learnt as much in them as he has; or will he say, Nature has given him greater abilities, and enabled him to acquire knowledge beyond the reach of every other man? If she has so qualified him, he is too discreet to make an ostentatious display of her favours, for no proof of their being in his possession has yet transpired, either by his pamphlet or any other means. As it is evident he has said nothing new on the disorder, it is necessary that he should prove his superiority in that part of the profession, before the truth of his claim can be believed.

Does he rest his assumed superiority on his trusses? In what does that superiority consist? He learnt his profession from his father, who likewise said he made them better than any one else; his pretensions were proved to be an imposition, in a court of justice; therefore Mr. Brand should prove that his trusses are not only better, but made on a principle different from his father's, or the sensible

sensible part of his readers will think his claim is an attempt to revive the imposture. I think this should be the subject of his next pamphlet, where, instead of insinuating that all the profession are ignorant and presuming, he should insert strong proofs of his superiority, supported by reason and science, instead of his own *ipse dixit*, and cases that the most ignorant may meet with or *invent*.

The radical cure has always been the touchstone of rupture quacks; they have constantly pretended to perform it, and as constantly failed. Men of the greatest abilities have proved the impossibility of doing it by art; it must be the work of Nature assisted by a proper bandage. Mr. Brand should, for his own sake, have been explicit here; if he knows any other means of curing it, why does he not say so? Men of the greatest knowledge would be obliged to and honour him for the discovery. If he does not, why is he surprised that the hospital surgeons do not attempt to do what they think impossible? Why does he insinuate the possibility of performing it, and in another part of his pamphlet, give advice, which, if the patients were to take, it would be impossible for them to know whether they are cured or not?

I shall

I shall now conclude these remarks, observing, that the quack who boldly promises to cure a rupture, and the man who insinuates the probability of doing it, and gives advice, which, if taken, will render it impossible for the patient to know whether the cure is effected or not, are equally to be thought guilty of “promising to do more than in the nature of things is possible, and therefore should be suspected of doing less than can or ought to be done.”

As much has been said, both in these remarks and in Mr. Brand's pamphlet, on quacks and impostors, and as it is evident that all rupture quacks in future will be quacking truss-makers or rupture surgeons, I will state what should be the treatment a patient ought to receive from the person he applies to for relief, and which I think will be generally allowed to be a criterion to distinguish the fair practitioner from the empiric, whatever title he may assume.

The man who applies to a surgeon for advice is generally ignorant of his complaint, but describes the symptoms of it as well as he can; the surgeon compares the description with his own observations and knowledge of the disorder, and refers him to the chemist or apothecary for the

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proper remedies: if it is a ruptured patient, they refer him to the truss-maker.

But those who apply to the RUPTURE SURGEON, or Truss-maker, know what their disorder is, and all that can be done for it; they go to purchase an instrument, which the seller should apply, and be answerable for its utility, as much as the jeweller is responsible for the quality of what he sells; and therefore, if the *Rupture Surgeon*, or Truss-maker, is paid for his truss, he ought to be satisfied.

The profession of the first is to give advice, therefore he should be paid for it; the other, notwithstanding the pompous airs he may assume, has no advice to give, except what relates to the patient's use of the truss he purchases; therefore, when he is paid for that, he should make no farther demand, except in those cases that require long and tedious attendance, or are at a distance that requires some expence to attend them.

If this distinction is just, what shall we think of the man, who, besides being paid for his trusses, insists upon having fees for his advice every time the patient comes, and frequently
makes

makes a charge for trusses and attendance equal to what the first surgeons would expect for the most dangerous operations? He extorts money by false pretences as much as the profest empiric, and in fact is equally INFAMOUS.

I shall now conclude this essay, by asking Mr. Brand, whether the following particulars are a part of his improved method of treatment and cure of ruptures; if they are, and have been successful "in his extensive practice," the information will be of public utility, as it is very certain that all those who meet with rupture cases, are so desirous to improve themselves in that useful profession, that they will immediately adopt a practice that he has found so *profitable* as well as "efficient:"

1st. When a patient applies to Mr. Brand, does he not insist upon being paid a guinea for advice each time he comes, besides being paid for his trusses?

2dly. If a patient applies to Mr. Brand, and does not approve of his trusses, does not he, the said Mr. Brand, insist upon a guinea for what he calls advice?

3dly. If the first truss a patient purchases does not keep up the rupture properly, does not he the said Mr. Brand say he must try another; if that does not answer, try a third; and so on, till one is found that does; and is it not understood that the patient is to pay for the three, although but one of them is of service to him?

4thly. Do not his trusses frequently wear out in a month? and does he not constantly say they cannot be covered again, but the patient must always buy a new truss when the covering of the former is worn out?

5thly. Has he not advised patients to bathe in the sea with their trusses on? If he has, did he not know that the salt water would destroy them in a short time?

6thly. Has he not frequently charged a patient fifty guineas for trusses and attendance on a simple buboncele, or exomphalus, without any dangerous symptoms?

7thly. If these things are true, are they most like the conduct of a rapacious empiric, or a fair practitioner?

Mr. Brand

Mr. Brand may possibly decline answering these queries from a man who signs himself plain Truss-maker, because it is beneath the dignity of the Surgeon Extraordinary to Greenwich Hospital to regard such INFERIOR beings: this excuse may vindicate his own importance to himself, and meet with his own approbation; but it will call to the minds of unbiassed people the remarkable behaviour of Captain Bluff, who boasted of his great deeds one minute, submitted to a hearty drubbing the next, and walked quietly off, telling his antagonist, "he would return his compliment another time, but now it was not *convenient*."

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